



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

ONE SOUTH STATION

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

BETH LINDSTROM
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
AND BUSINESS REGULATION

BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 305-3500

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

SEP 29 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

PAUL G. AFONSO
CHAIRMAN

JAMES CONNELLY
COMMISSIONER

W. ROBERT KEATING
COMMISSIONER

JUDITH F. JUDSON
COMMISSIONER

BRIAN PAUL GOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

September 28, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A306
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45
Year 2006 Certification of Rural Carriers for Receipt of High-Cost Funds
Year 2006 Certification for Rate Comparability Review for Non-rural Carriers
Serving in Rural Areas

The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("MDTE") respectfully submits this filing in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") requirement that state commissions certify that rural carriers are using high-cost funds in a manner consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act and in compliance with the Commission's requirement that each state annually review the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of the state served by non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") to urban rates nationwide and certify to the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company as to whether the rates are reasonably comparable.

The MDTE certifies that the following rural carriers will use funds received for year 2006 rural high-cost support (including high-cost loop support, local switching support, high-cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high-cost model support, and hold harmless support) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act. 0

List A B C D E

FAX: (617) 345-9101 TTY: (800) 323-3298

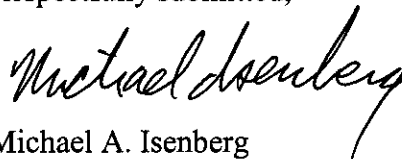
www.mass.gov/dte

Richmond Telephone Company (study area code 110037)
Granby Telephone & Telegraph Company (study area code 110036)
Taconic Telephone Corp. (study area code 150084)

With respect to the Commission's annual rate comparability certification requirement, the MDTE certifies that the residential rates in rural areas served by the non-rural ILEC, Verizon, in Massachusetts are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide. As a result of basic residential rate averaging, there is no disparity between residential rates in non-rural and rural areas served by the non-rural ILEC in Massachusetts.

Should the Commission require any additional information concerning this matter, kindly contact me at (617) 305-3744.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Isenberg
Director, Telecommunications Division